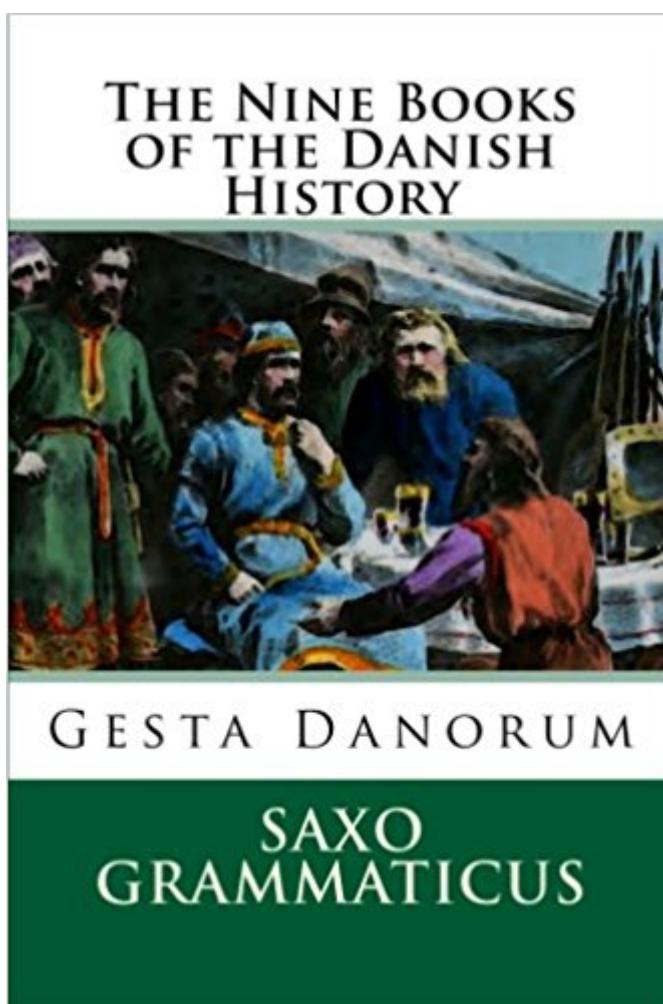


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The Nine Books Of The Danish History: Gesta Danorum



Synopsis

Originally titled *Gesta Danorum* ("Deeds of the Danes") this book is a patriotic work of Danish history, by the 12th century author *Saxo Grammaticus* ("Saxo the Learned.") It is the most ambitious literary undertaking of medieval Denmark and is an essential source for the nation's early history. Consisting of sixteen books written in Latin, *Gesta Danorum* describes Danish history and to some degree Scandinavian history in general, from prehistory to the late 12th century. In addition, *Gesta Danorum* offers singular reflections on European affairs from a unique Scandinavian perspective, supplementing what has been handed down by historians from Western and Southern Europe. This current volume presents Oliver Elton's English translation of the first nine books of Saxo's work, which focus on Norse Mythology. Included as well are over 50 pages of introductory material by Frederick Powell and all of the original illustrations from the 1905 edition of the book. This book is 338-pages.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Saxo Grammaticus, or "The Lettered", one of the notable historians of the Middle Ages, may fairly be called not only the earliest chronicler of Denmark, but her earliest writer.

For those of us who love Norse mythology, this is a must read. It has its place alongside the Eddas. Here are the stories of Frode, Starkad, Hrolf, Ragner Lodbrok and Amleth, the predecessor to Hamlet. The translation is a bit old, but has its charm (the king's English if you will.) At times, due to the repetition of names, recurrent motifs, and dense writing, keeping the plot straight can sometimes be a challenge. But it's worth the effort.

This is incredibly interesting especially to someone like myself with Scandinavian background. Never got this information in my school education, and as an adult I married a Dane and lived in Copenhagen for 2 years. Sure would have wished I had this info then so I could better appreciate my experience there when there. For non-Scandinavians, the names may be a real hangup. My experience living in Denmark gave me some familiarity with them. They are strange. The lives of the royals and the common people are richly described, and the intrigues keep you reading. I'm still reading it. Before I started it, I read Catherine the Great and find this book a compliment and a different slant on what was happening in Europe. I recommend this book to any Scandinavian family.

I recently bought the story of Amleth by Saxo Grammaticus Charles River edition through another well known online retailer, partly because the only version I could find on was a not inexpensive paperback with a 1 to 4 week waiting period. Saxo Grammaticus was a Danish historian and storyteller believed to have lived in the latter part of the twelfth century. Essentially, he was the first person to put the history of Denmark to paper. His history refer to 9 books of the Gesta Danorum, and the best known of which is Books 3 and 4 containing the story of Amleth, subsequently translated into French and embellished by de Belleforest, and made eternally famous by Shakespeare's play Hamlet. Whether you are interested in Shakespeare, Danish history or mythology I think you will find this story interesting, as it has many differences from the play Hamlet including Amleth's adventures in England, and romantic escapades in both England and Scotland with the Queen Hermuturde who loved and hated men in equal measure, and reputed to kill her suitors. So, if you want to get the story for free here now is your opportunity. The Kindle edition is properly organised and free of typos at least from what I have read so far. As I write, it has not been properly formatted for Kindle, which means that some of the typical search abilities such as looking for specific words are absent, but it can still be read by normal means. It may help you to know that Amleth begins around location 2100. I definitely recommend this edition. I can only speak so far to Amleth being a great story. I think you will enjoy it, and I hope this review was helpful.

Among the best insight I have gleaned into Viking politics and history. The book is accessible and makes for an enjoyable read not just a informative one.

For this "price", guys i wouldn't mind paying really, but this is really great find for us historical geeks.

Its a great read, well how many of us do really know something about Denmark? Not much if it is not your specialization. And yet there s so much to know. The roots of Danish history sink into the antiquity, when the northern tribesmen 1st formulated what it was like to have a law order etc. They were war-like people, and of great ability. Not very different from the Norwegians or the Swedes and yet different. In this book we meet with the great kings, and the stories surrounding them. Its the archaic knowledge well-worth your attention! Have fun!

It was really interesting.

The Danish History by Saxo is a serious historical work on a scale comparable with The Icelandic Sagas. For Danes, it is "A National Treasure" and the best available attempt to record the oral tradition of the Danes for the period before other written records. It is for the serious student - not for the fainthearted. For lovers of English literature, there are interesting stories that formed the basis for Hamlet and other works.

This is a good product with good service as advertised on this website. Would recommend this vendor and order from them again.

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